

# Michigan's Safe & Drug Free Schools Program Successes & Facts

- **The vast majority of Michigan students are affected by Safe and Drug Free Schools (SDFS) funding** – Over 1.8 million school-aged youth (97%) in Michigan public and private schools received alcohol, tobacco and other drug (ATOD), and violence prevention programs and services through SDFS funding in FY 2004-2005.<sup>1</sup>
- **Michigan students are taking fewer unhealthy risks** – Results from a statewide representative sample of students in grades 9 – 12 who participated in the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) show that significantly fewer teens are physically fighting, carrying weapons, smoking, drinking, and using other drugs. From 1997 to 2005 (the most recent survey), 97% (33 of the 34) of the items measuring violence and drug use showed a statistically significant decline (the remaining item did not show a statistically significant change). Here are some highlights:
  - Violence**
    - 42.7% fewer students carried a weapon (e.g., gun or knife) on school property in the past 30 days
    - 15.7% fewer students carried a gun on one or more of the past 30 days
    - 25.0% fewer students were in a physical fight on school property during the past 12 months
  - Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drugs**
    - 71.6% fewer students smoked cigarettes on school property during the past 30 days
    - 50.0% fewer students had at least one drink of alcohol on school property during the past 30 days
    - 35.3% fewer students had their first drink of alcohol before age 13
    - 40.8% fewer students smoked a whole cigarette for the first time before age 13
    - 58.4% fewer students used marijuana on school property during the past 30 days
    - 33.3% fewer students used marijuana during the past 30 days
    - 20.5% fewer students were offered/sold/given an illegal drug on school property during the past 12 months
    - 28.7% fewer students tried marijuana for the first time before age 13
- **Michigan is on the road toward safe and drug-free students** – The dramatic decline in violence and drug use prevalence among Michigan students from 1997 to 2005 resulted in levels at or below national prevalence rates according to the 2005 YRBS (the most recent survey).
- **Evaluation Works! in Michigan's SDFS Program** – Efforts by the Office of Drug Control Policy (ODCP) to promote the benefits of evaluation have helped make evaluation meaningful to grantees and reduce their negative perceptions and fears of evaluation. As a result, in the past three years, over 90% of SDFS grantees have successfully developed outcome goals/objectives and utilized evaluations with pre/post outcome measures.<sup>1</sup>
- **Creating safe and drug-free learning environments, improving academic achievement** – Michigan's SDFS Program is funding effective prevention programs that have shown significant improvement in student achievement test scores, school attendance, and graduation rates, while decreasing student dropout rates and suspensions/expulsions for violence related behaviors.<sup>2</sup>
- **Serving youth in their communities** – In collaboration with local schools and court systems, 20% of Michigan's SDFS funds are utilized for community-based organizations to provide after-school and summer prevention programs targeting high-risk youth and their families. Over 90% of Governor's Discretionary Grant (GDG) programs utilized federally approved, evidence-based programs during FY 2004-2005.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Office of Drug Control Policy, Michigan Department of Community Health - Michigan Electronic Grants System (MEGS) & Michigan Automated Grant Information Connection (MAGIC)

<sup>2</sup> Safety Net Annual Report, The Safety Net: The McComb Healthy Schools Project